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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
08/701,739	08/22/96	PERERA	A 52.036

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EXAMINER

T.A.D.

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3202

12

DATE MAILED: 10/20/97

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
 COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/22/96

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 22-25 is/are pending in the application.
 Of the above, claim(s) 6, 7, 9, 13, 15-19 and 22-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8, 10-12, 14 and 25 is/are rejected.
☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
☒ The drawing(s) filed on 8/22/96 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☒ received.
☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

—SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES—

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's cancellation of claims 20 and 21 is acknowledged.

Election/Restriction

2. Claims 6, 9, 15-19 and 22-24 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected species 2-5, the requirement having been traversed in Paper No. 11.

3. Claim 7 has been elected by the applicants as part of specie 1. However, it is only directed to Figure 4 (specie 2), thus it is also withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, claim 7 has not been further treated on the merits.

4. Claim 13 has been elected by the applicants as part of specie 1. However, it depends on claim 9 which is a non-elected claim, thus it is also withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, claim 13 has not been further treated on the merits.

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Information Disclosure Statement

5. Please provide copy of GB 1198797, UK 1172119, DE 1259993, FR 2021510, DE 1928341 and CH 552896, which are listed on pages 2 and 3 of this application in response to this Office action.

Drawings

6. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

7. Any portions of the drawings in section and made of an **insulative material** must be crosshatched accordingly.

Specification

8. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

9. In order to be in compliance with applicant's remarks on page 3, lines 10 and 11 that the cutting edge 46 of the contact member 24 falls within the definition of the knife edged protrusion means set forth in claim 1, the specification must be changed as follows: page 14, line 15, after "46" insert --(knife edged protrusion means)--. Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Objections

10. Claims 4 and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 4, line 4, change "an" to --a--; in claim 10, line 3, change "edge," to --edges.--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. Claims 4, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "the insulative layer" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the conductor receptacle" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the conductor receptacle" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

13. Claims 1-5, 8, 10 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by France Patent Number (471,769), Nov. 1914.

In regard to claim 1, France Patent 471,769 discloses (Figures 6 and 7) an electrical connector comprising: a body **a** defining a recess **a2** for receiving an insulated portion of the electrical conductor **c**; and electrical contact means **b** movably connected to the body **a** in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the conductor **c** when the conductor **c** is positioned in the recess **a2**, the contact means **b** having an end portion **b1** adapted to displace the insulative covering of the portion of the insulated conductor **c** and make an electrical connection with the conductor **c** upon movement of the electrical contact means **b** into contact with the insulative covering, the body **a** having knife edged protrusion means **f** extending into the recess **a2** for insulation displacement and electrical connection on a side of the electrical conductor **c** substantially opposite to the contact means **b**, the body **a** being electrically conductive with the knife edged protrusion means **f**, the electrical contact means **b** being electrically connected to the conductive body **a**.

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In regard to claim 2, France Patent 471,769 discloses that the recess **a2** is formed of a substantially cylindrical and contoured passage.

In regard to claim 3, France Patent 471,769 discloses that the electrical contact means **b** extends through a wall of the conductive body **a** (Figures 6 & 7) from an outside thereof, the end portion of the contact means **b** being movable into and out of the recess **a2**.

In regard to claim 4, France Patent 471,769 discloses that the recess **a2** is dimensioned in cross-section for the insulated portion of the conductor **c** to be insertable therein with a minimum clearance between an exterior of the insulative layer and a surface of the recess **a2**.

In regard to claim 5, France Patent 471,769 discloses that the body **a** defines a contact passage with internal threads; the contact means **b** includes an external screw thread for engaging the internal threads of the contact passage in the conductor receptacle, wherein rotation of the contact means **b** causes relative movement between the contact means **b** and the body **a** to cause the contact means end portion to protrude into the recess **a2** and make electrical connection with the insulated conductor positioned in the recess **a2**.

In regard to claim 8, France Patent 471,769 discloses that the end portion of the contact means **b** includes an insulation cutting surface **b1**.

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In regard to claim 10, France Patent 471,769 discloses that the contact means **b** is formed as a screw threaded bolt having a substantially rounded end with radially extending cutting edge **b1** and axially extending cutting edge (by cavity **b2**).

In regard to claim 25, France Patent 471,769 discloses that the knife edge protrusions **f** are formed by another electrical contact means movably connected to the body **a** and movable into the recess **a2**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 11, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over France Patent Number (471,769), Nov. 1914 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (specification pages 1-4).¹⁵

In regard to claims 11 and 12, France Patent Number (471,769), Nov. 1914 discloses generally all that is claimed except for the jointing compound being filled in the cavity of the contact means so that the jointing compound can be provided to the abutting surfaces in order to

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facilitate the cleaning of the electrical contact area, repels moisture and inhibits corrosion build up to maintain a good electrical contact between the abutting surfaces.

Applicant's admitted prior art (specification pages 1-4)¹⁵ discloses that it has been found advantageous to provide abutting surfaces which make electrical contact with a cable jointing compound, which facilitates the cleaning of the electrical contact area, repels moisture and inhibits corrosion build up to maintain a good electrical contact between the abutting surfaces.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify France Patent Number (471,769), Nov. 1914 by filling the cable jointing compound as disclosed by Applicant's admitted prior art (specification pages 1-4) into cavity **b2** so that when the contact means **b** is inserted into the recess **a2**, the jointing compound can be provided between the surface of the contact means **b** and the conductor surface, and thus a good electrical contact between the abutting surfaces can be provided.

In regard to claim 14, France Patent Number (471,769), Nov. 1914 discloses that the outer edge of the cavity **b2** serves as a cutting edge.

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Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (703) 308-0800. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Austin Bradley, can be reached at (703) 308-2319. Papers may be faxed directly to Group 3200 at (703) 305-3579.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 308-1148.



GARY F. PAUMEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 322

tdt
October 10, 1997